

GROUND WATER FORUM TELECONFERENCE

Thursday June 5, 2003

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-chair Bernie Zavala (Region 10) sent a copy of the Seattle action items to GWF members prior to the conference call. He asked that members review the action items and send him or co-chair Dick Willey (Region 1) any corrections or additions.

ASTM sent an e-mail message to Robert Springer of the Office of Solid Waste (OSW) lodging a complaint against the issue paper, *Ground-Water Sampling Guidelines for Superfund and RCRA Project Managers*, which was written by the GWF. They are asking OSW to discontinue use of the paper. OSW staff have met with Rich Steimle (TIO), who has taken the lead on addressing the complaint. Guy Tomassoni (OSW) said the ASTM has two issues: (1) There are inaccuracies and misleading statements in the issue paper and (2) EPA did not coordinate production of the paper with voluntary bodies such as ASTM as required by law. ASTM experts will be meeting on June 12 to identify these problems specifically. The ASTM also sent a letter to the Administrator questioning EPA's lack of coordination with them on the ground-water sampling issue paper as well as a brownfields document.

UNIFIED STATISTICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Guy Tomassoni noted that field staff are very interested in having the unified statistical guidance completed. His Branch Chief, Tom Reinhard, has agreed to commit \$20,000 initially towards this goal. The RCRA expert on statistics is Mike Gansecki (Region 8), who has agreed to help with the guidance.

Mike explained that the unified guidance was an effort to bring together two previously published RCRA statistical ground-water documents, which occasionally conflicted. A workgroup reviewed the most recent draft in 1998. Kurt Cameron (Colorado School of Mines) incorporated the workgroup's comments, but no additional work has been done since then. Mike indicated that the original emphasis of the guidance was on the regulatory requirements of 40 CFR 264. The issues of corrective action and achieving of cleanup goals are not necessarily addressed in the document, but it could be expanded to include them. Mike is interested in having the GWF or other EPA staff look at the document and suggest next steps. He has a hardcopy of the current draft, that he is willing to provide to GWF members, but it does not have references or tables.

Guy mentioned that as work on the guidance goes forward, it will be important to canvas available resources on the topic to identify any other documents that may have been developed since 1998 (e.g., by ASTM or ITRC) to see if the unified guidance would be a duplication of effort. Guy proposed holding a conference call of interested people to decide what they should task a contractor to do. Volunteers to participate in the call include Jeff Johnson (Region 7), Luanne Vanderpool (Region 5), Herb Levine (Region 9), and Glenn Bruck (Region 9), Ken Lovelace (OERR), and Guy Tomassoni. Mike will send a table of contents to Bernie who will forward it to EMS for distribution. Mike also will send a hardcopy to Bernie, who will ensure that Herb and Luanne receive copies.

Mike noted that the pump and treat optimization guidance may contain statistical discussions that would relate to the unified guidance. Bernie noted that the GWF planned to discuss the optimization guidance during their July conference call and suggested that Mike participate on the call.

FALL 2003 MEETING UPDATE

The central topic for the fall 2003 meeting will be fractured rock and the fate and transport of contaminants in fractured rock. Curt Black (Region 10) is chairing the planning committee. Dick Willey summarized the findings of the committee on the three proposed locations:

- Storrs, CT is home to the University of Connecticut and the USGS geophysical applications branch. John Lane, the branch's director, is currently on active military duty. The USGS indicated that it would be a hardship to support the meeting and would need financial help to do so. Dick recommended that they drop Storrs as an option.
- Trenton, NJ has the USGS bedrock research site, but opportunities for seeing anything in the field are very limited. Kathy Davies (Region 3) also indicated that the field trip opportunities in the greater Philadelphia area are also limited.
- Niagara Falls, NY has a large number of sites and settings that are easily accessible. Dick recommended this location as the best option.

The GWF voted to select Buffalo/Niagara Falls as the location for the fall 2003 meeting . Curt agreed to contact the planning committee (Kay Wischkaemper, Kathy Davies, Luanne Vanderpool, and Kevin Willis as well as the co-chairs) via e-mail to iron out details and provide an update on the July call.

LONG-TERM MONITORING OPTIMIZATION TOOLS FOR GROUND-WATER MONITORING NETWORKS AND APPLICATION OF FLOW AND TRANSPORT OPTIMIZATION CODES TO GROUND-WATER PUMP AND TREAT SYSTEMS.

Bernie distributed Kathy Yager's notes on these topics to the GWF prior to the conference call. He would like the GWF to look over the notes and be prepared to comment on them during the July conference call. Dave Becker (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) updated the Forum on the optimization tools guidance during the call. Dave Wilson (Region 5) volunteered to head up a workgroup on this guidance and will coordinate with Dave Becker. Dave Wilson will also lead the coordination effort on the optimization codes project. Dave said that they are using two tools in the optimization codes project: MOROS and a three-tiered process developed by Parsons. He reviewed Parsons' application of the process to a Region 5 site and found a number of problems with it. Anyone interested in seeing Dave's comments can e-mail him.

CAPTURE ZONE GUIDANCE AND TRAINING

Vince Malott noted that the training given at the NARPM meeting was well attended (55) and received. There was general interest in the "how to" document, and attendees wanted to see more case studies. While most thought the course was taught at the right level, several also commented that it was too basic or too advanced. Luanne said the structure of the full course should eliminate this problem by providing a basic introduction followed by a technical discussion. She also said that the majority of attendees indicated that they would go to the full training if it were held in their region. A beta training will be held in Region 3 in November or December. It is unclear whether the beta scheduled for Region 9 will be in September or will be postponed until the next fiscal year. The first non-beta training, scheduled to be held in March in Region 7, may be postponed by a month or two.

The schedule for the actual document and slides is as follows:

- June 13: Draft course outline for day-long training will be provided to GWF members for review.
- June 20: Reviewers from the Ground Water and Ecosystem Restoration Division in Ada will provide comments on the "how to" guide to GeoTrans, Inc.
- June 26: The GWF workgroup will submit comments on the course outline to GeoTrans, Inc.
- July 15: Kathy Davis will provide draft slides to the GWF workgroup for review, and Luanne will provide the revised "how to" guide to the workgroup for review.
- Aug 20: Comments from the workgroup on both documents are due to GeoTrans
- Sept 5: GeoTrans will have the revised course slides ready.

The draft "how to" guide will not be distributed at the beta sessions, but will be released after the two beta training sessions have been completed. Luanne will e-mail workgroup members with the review

schedule. Dave Burden will contact Herb Levine (Region 9) about determining the date for the Region 9 beta training.

BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARY FROM SEATTLE MEETING

Bernie indicated that TIO would like the forums to post business session summaries from the biannual meetings on the TSP website (www.epa.gov/tio/tsp/). Currently, only the technical session summaries are posted. He also proposed that the *Highlights* newsletter that is distributed when the summaries are available include mention of the business session highlights. This idea was debated and agreed upon.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

Dick Willey, Region 1
Andy Crossland, Region 2
Ruth Izraeli, Region 2
Kevin Willis, Region 2
Joel Hennessy, Region 3
Kay Wischkaemper, Region 4
Luanne Vanderpool, Region 5
Dave Wilson, Region 5
Vince Malott, Region 6
Dave Drake, Region 7
Jeff Johnson, Region 7
Bill Pedicino, Region 7
Helen Dawson, Region 8
Kendra Morrison, Region 8
Mike Gansecki, Region 8
Glenn Bruck, Region 9
Curt Black, Region 10
René Fuentes, Region 10

Howard Orlean, Region 10

Bernie Zavala, Region 10

States:

Brian Lewis, CA DTSC

Jennifer Sutter, OR DEQ

Labs:

Dave Burden, NRMRL/GWERD-Ada

Headquarters:

Ken Lovelace, OERR

Rich Steimle, TIO

Guy Tomassoni, OSW

Corps of Engineers

Steve White

USGS

Doug Yeskis

Contractors:

Bill Myers, EMS